

10. (Amended) Linear personalization machine in accordance with claim 9, wherein said personalization control and management system (243) triggers a substitution sequence whenever a personalization defect on a portable object (4) is signaled.

11. (Amended) Linear personalization machine in accordance with claim 10, wherein the connection devices (22i) and/or personalization card (21i) test the quality and/or content of the personalization of the portable objects (4) and signal any personalization defects to the control and management system (243).

A 12. (Amended) Linear personalization machine in accordance with claim 9, wherein an ejection station (6) located at the exit of said personalization machine (10) tests the quality of personalization of the portable objects (4) and signals any personalization defects to the control and management system (243).

REMARKS


In view of the amendments and remarks herein, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claims 1-12 have been amended. Claims 1-12 are pending for further examination.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth by the Examiner in paragraph 3 of the Office Action. In response, Applicant has amended the claims herein in a manner that is believed to obviate this rejection. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 9 have been rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Sakamoto et al. (4,725,185). Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims

herein clearly and patentably distinguish the teachings of Sakamoto. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is directed to a machine used for processing cards including integrated circuits, e.g., smartcards with an electronic chip. The personalization process is used for "entering instructions and/or information into each memory card". The information is particular to the card or particular to the application. The electronic writing process is done in the elevator's connection device (22i) head by a personalization card/board (25i) corresponding to each head. The writing is preferably done using security information read from security card (4s) and information transmitted by the backplane computer (241). The time required for one card to be electronically written in the connecting device (22i) cannot be shortened beyond a certain duration. Thus, the point of the multi-platform elevator (20) is to process several cards simultaneously, thereby enhancing the total rate of the machine. The personalization includes electronic communication, and does not use a mechanical process for assembling other physical components. Such information may be a card number or bearer name ("particular to the card") or an application program code ("particular to the application"). The electronic personalization process can use the same card type for issuing a whole range of different and personalized results depending on the desired application. In accordance with the invention, the personalization of cards is only obtained through personalized electronic information coming from, for example, a security card and backplane computer, and not from a physical personalized assembly. All cards follow the same transfer path once out



of elevator. The specific combination of features of the invention defined in the amended claims herein are not taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Sakamoto teaches a machine for loading/unloading printed circuit boards to be physically processed, by mounting electronic components thereon, or printing a new circuit thereon (col. 1, lines 15-21). Such boards/cards are to be processed by mounting electric components thereon, or forming electronic circuits thereon. Personalized results can only be obtained with Sakamoto's machine by using different boards and/or electric components. Such a machine cannot apply a personalized processes without using different physical components and transfer paths. In Sakamoto's disclosure, elevators are only used for storing boards when waiting to be processed. Thus, in Sakamoto, elevators are used in a different way and for different reasons as compared to the claimed invention.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited reference fails to anticipate the invention as presently claimed. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

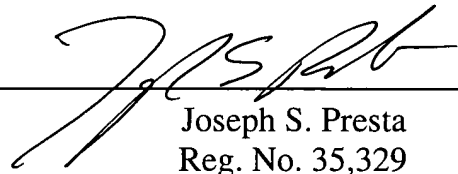


Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


Joseph S. Presta
Reg. No. 35,329

JSP:mg
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) Linear personalization machine, comprising a transfer system (3) for conveying, along a transfer line, portable objects (4), incorporating an integrated circuit, [characterized in that it comprises] and further including a personalization elevator (20) translated vertically and sequentially on a guide support (70) by a driving and positioning [means] arrangement (24, 73, 28, 75, 72), said elevator (20) being made up of a parallelepiped mobile plate (23) fitted with a plurality of fixed platforms (227), each fixed platform including connection devices [whether or not of mixed type] (22i, 22n) connecting to the integrated circuit of portable objects (4) loaded in said platform, said fixed platforms (227) being loaded through [that are brought in sequential manner in front of an] an incoming/outgoing arrangement for receiving said portable objects (4) on a position on the transfer line.

2. (Amended) Linear personalization machine in accordance with claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said guide support (70) is made up of a parallelepiped support plate (71) whose length is approximately equal to twice the length of said personalization elevator (20), comprising a vertical slit (72), two vertical rails (73) [(79)] and two pulleys (74) joined together by [a] an elevator belt (75).

3. (Amended) Linear personalization machine in accordance with claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the driving and positioning [means] arrangement [are made up of] comprises [means] a holder (24) for holding in place and sliding said


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elevator (20) in said rails (73), [of said guide support (70), of] and a driving fixation (28) firmly anchoring said [the] elevator (20) to said elevator belt (75) [of guide support (70)], the vertical slit (72) of guide support (70) forming a track for the driving fixation (28) of said elevator (20), the driving and positioning [means] arrangement allowing each fixed platform (227) to be brought to a halt level with the portable objects (4) conveyed by [and in the alignment of] said transfer system (3) [for portable objects].

4. (Amended) Linear personalization machine according to claim 2,
[characterized in that] wherein said belt (75) of said guide support (70) is periodically set in motion by [an electric] a motor [or other power means] such that the upward and downward movements of said elevator (20) along the guide support (70) are regularly interrupted at the level of the incoming/outgoing arrangement position on the transfer line to enable the loading and unloading of portable objects (4).

5. (Amended) Linear personalization machine in accordance with claim 3,
[characterized in that] wherein the driving fixation (28) is located at the center of said parallelepiped plate (23) and comprises [means], at its end point, a connector for anchoring to said elevator belt (75) of said guide support (70).

6. (Amended) Linear personalization machine in accordance with claim 1,
[characterized in that it comprises] further comprising a decoder package (250) connected, by an address bus (257) and a data bus (258), to [each first parallel port (216) of each] a plurality of personalization cards [card] (21i) by a first parallel port (216) of the card [an address bus (257) and a data bus (258)], each of said personalization cards



(21i) controlling one of the connection devices (22i, 22n) and being connected in parallel to a backplane computer (241) via a second parallel port (215).

7. (Amended) Linear personalization machine according to claim 1, wherein [characterized in that] the connection devices (22i) enable testing of the electronic chips and activation of the electric contacts and/or contactless terminals of said portable objects (4).

8. (Amended) Linear personalization machine in accordance with claim 7, wherein [characterized in that] when the connection devices (22) have detected a faulty portable object (4), the portable object [latter] is unloaded from said elevator (20) before [its] personalization thereof.

9. (Amended) Linear personalization machine according to claim 1, [characterized in that it] further comprising [comprises] a computerized control and management [computer means] (243) for [personalization control and management (243)] controlling and managing execution of personalization processes, portable objects (4, 4i, 4j) positions, connecting device (22i, 22n) positions, and/or connection quality.

10. (Amended) Linear personalization machine in accordance with claim 9, wherein [characterized in that] said personalization control and management system [means] (243) triggers [trigger] a substitution sequence whenever a personalization defect on a portable object (4) is signaled.

11. (Amended) Linear personalization machine in accordance with claim 10, [characterized in that] wherein the connection devices (22i) and/or personalization card

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(21i) test the quality and/or content of the personalization of the portable objects (4) and signal any personalization defects to the control and management [means] system (243).

12. (Amended) Linear personalization machine in accordance with claim 9, wherein [characterized in that] an ejection station (6) located at the exit of said personalization machine (10) tests the quality of personalization of the portable objects (4) and signals any personalization defects to the control and management system [means] (243).